

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th December 1899.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Charu Mihir* of the 28th November has the following:—

The Transvaal war.

The success of British arms in the Transvaal is certain. In military strength, pecuniary resources, and arms and ammunition the Boers are not equal to the English. At present the English are in great difficulty, having to fight with both the Transvaal and the Free State Boers. The Dutch settlers in South Africa have also risen against the British in their sympathy with their countrymen. General Buller is trying to quell this rebellion by all means.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 28th, 1899

2. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 30th November says that, during the lifetime of the Amir Abdur Rahman, Russia cannot invade India. But after his death there will be a civil war in Afghanistan. Russia will then try her best to conquer that country. If England, in pursuance of her agreement, interferes in Afghan affairs, she will have to make war with Russia. The Amir's health is fast declining. Russia is, therefore, making preparations to conquer Afghanistan soon after his death. England ought to remain fully prepared to hold Afghanistan against Russia.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

3. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st December writes as follows:—

Sir Redvers Buller's order for removal of badges.

General Sir Redvers Buller has ordered all officers under him to discard all distinguishing badges. This order is not unprecedented. In the Crimean war, the Russian Commander-in-Chief, seeing a large number of Russian officers picked out and shot by the English and French soldiers, ordered his officers to put on the cloak of the private soldier. At this a French General observed that a French officer looked upon his badge with pride and would never conceal it under the cloak of a private soldier, and that it was better to die than to submit to such indignity.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 1st, 1899.

4. In his Sheffield speech, writes the same paper, Lord Lansdowne said that the ill-treatment of the Indians in the Transvaal baffled description, and that when these people would go back to their country and say that even the powerful British Government could not save them from the hands of their persecutors, would not all Englishmen hang down their heads in shame? Lord Lansdowne's sympathy with the Indian people is no doubt very refreshing; but where was his Lordship when the ill-treated Indians in Natal petitioned Mr. Chamberlain for protection, and he had not a word of hope for them? Has Lord Lansdowne ever tried to save the Indians in Natal from ill-treatment?

HITAVADI.

5. The same paper contains an illustration of Church Street, Pretoria, and the following as a letter-press:—

Are the Boers civilised or uncivilised?

The Boers are sometimes called half-civilised by their enemies. But we publish a view of a street in Pretoria, the Boer capital. The street is lined with palatial buildings and is brilliantly lighted. The lights in the houses serve to heighten the light in the street. Pretoria does not lack those appliances which are required for the sanitation and embellishment of a civilised town. Let the public judge whether those who have such a beautiful town are civilised or uncivilised.

HITAVADI.

6. The same paper has the following:—

Indian feeling in the Transvaal war.

Narrow-minded Englishmen have already manufactured a strange story in connection with the Transvaal war. The *Englishman* was the first to set the rumour afloat. It wrote that the British reverses in Natal had pleased the Indian public. The *Englishman* has been followed by other papers of its ilk, and a Delhi correspondent of an Anglo-Indian paper writes as follows:—

HITAVADI

“The illiterate natives have been told by their educated brethren about the Russian preparations to advance on India, and they appear to be quite happy over it, fancying the British Raj is coming to an end! I have heard the conversation with my own ears, and if any one were to take a walk round the Chandey Chowk and its interior, he would find ample proof of it.”

It is superfluous to say that there can be no foundation for these statements. Can anybody tell us why the natives of India should cherish the desire of seeing the destruction of British rule? If there had been any chance of the Hindus, Musalmans and other communities of India living in peace and enjoying freedom and independence on the English leaving this country bag and baggage, such a desire might have some day been possible. But that is not to be. If the English were to leave us to-day, to-morrow the conflagration of a civil war would break out, in which the Indian nation would be consumed.

As for a foreign invasion of India, the turbulent Afghans or the ferocious Russians would have long ago brought us under their feet if British valour and prowess had not been simply invincible. Why should those who have had a taste of British good government and appreciated British administrative policy, based as it is on justice, like to come under the rule of a despotic and barbarous Government? If the English were minded to leave of their own accord, we should have to implore them to stay in the country. We are not telling a lie in order to flatter the Government or to conceal our thoughts. We are telling the truth, and nothing but the truth.

The Anglo-Indians, who are casting unjust aspersions on the natives with the object of exciting the anger of the Government against the Indians, ought to know that in abusing the natives they are, in fact, abusing the Government. If the Indians be really dissatisfied with British rule, it must be to the discredit of the British Government. Indians are not Irishmen. They are famous for their loyalty. A kind word from the Government comforts us even under oppression and ill-treatment. Even a ruler who has oppressed us in a thousand ways would please us and make us forget his oppression and praise him. This is the Indian nature. If the Anglo-Indians do not know this, their knowledge of this country must be meagre indeed; and if they are willingly saying what they know to be not a fact, they must be extremely mean-minded.

There are Anglo-Indian papers, again, who assert that the native papers are trying their best to conceal public opinion on the Transvaal war. That this is an entirely unfounded statement goes without saying. The Press is considered to be the fourth estate, and only a most mean-minded journalist would abuse his sacred responsibility. Moreover, ours is an alien Government, and it cannot acquaint itself with the opinions of the people, except through the Native Press. It would be a great sin to betray the trust which the Government has reposed in us.

7. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 3rd December has the following:—

Indian feeling in the Transvaal war.

We regard those who are delighted to hear of English reverses in a war with a foreign power as enemies of India. English defeat is our defeat and English glory is our glory. As soon as a small British force was defeated by an overwhelming Boer force, the Russian Government began to mobilise troops near the Afghan frontier. The few English reverses in the Boer war have led Russia to think that the English are not so powerful as they had been thought to be. And that is why she has begun to make preparations for a war. Does this bode good to India? Do not the Indians understand that if Russia really ventures to attack India or Afghanistan, they will have to sacrifice money and life in checking their progress? Take the case of China. A few years ago even the most powerful nations feared her. But as soon as her weakness was exposed in her war with Japan, all the Powers came pressing upon her, and made her part with portions of her territory. No such fear, of course, need be entertained in regard to our Government; but if our Government be pressed on all sides by the other Powers, the people of India will be in great danger. We therefore ought to pray for British victory and help our Government to the best of our ability.

8. A correspondent writes as follows in the *Hablul Mateen* of the 4th December:—

Europeans in Persia.

I was an eye-witness of an affray which took place between some villagers and three employés of the German Ambassador at the bazar of Shimran, the summer retreat of the nobles and dignitaries of Teharan. The man whom the *hakim* of that place sent to put down the fight, seeing some people on the scene of the occurrence wearing European hats

DACCA PRAKASH,
Dec. 3rd, 1899.

HABUL MATEEN,
Dec. 4th, 1899.

and with rifles in their hands, did not dare to do anything. The men wearing European hats threatened some shop-keepers in the bazar with death if they did not point out those who had quarrelled with their employes.

Persia has lost her former character. Islam is being trampled upon by Christianity. If you, Mr. Editor, do not try to remove this evil from old Persia, what will be said of your sense of duty? How can you bear the sight of Christians ill-treating your females? Being sons of those whose names were the glory and the pride of the Islam world, how are you, Persians, ruling your subjects? Sovereignty is a sacred responsibility, the holder of which ought to be ever ready to look after his State affairs and to redress the wrongs of the oppressed and to punish the oppressors. A ruler ought not to consider that he is no better than one who has only a life-interest in his property. But with Persia the case is otherwise. The ruling class do not take any steps to check the oppression which is perpetrated by the Christians of Europe upon the people of Persia, and out of fear no Persian ventures to say anything to the Christians. Why should Persians feel any delicacy in their dealings with Europeans, and why should European oppression of the Persians go unpunished? Why should European Ambassadors interfere in the internal administration of Persia? Certainly it is against international law that European Ambassadors interfere with the internal administration of Persia.

9. Another correspondent of the same paper writes:—

Persia asleep.

How long will Persians remain asleep? Is not the sleep of seven hundred years enough for them? We fear they will be awakened by the sound of the guns and by the victorious cry of the Christians. In that case, a Persian's life will be much more bitter than the juice of cactus. O God, rouse the people of Persia from their sleep! O Persians, awake! Awake and follow the footprints of your forefathers. Read history and the lives of your ancestors, who flourished before these seven hundred years of your lethargy and sleep, that is to say, before the days of Mughal supremacy in the Islam world. You will find them spreading the faith and promulgating science and literature. They did not spare money, and they shed their blood until they raised Islam above all other religions, and made the Musalmans superior to all non-Musalmans in politics and civilization. A little reflection will show that the politics and civilization of the West are but the fruits of the labours of the Muhammadan worthies of the ancient times. Who were those worthies? Were they strangers to you? They were your forefathers. Then how is it that they were learned and you are ignorant, they were active and you are indolent, they were quick-witted and you are dull, and that luxury is all and all with you? You have wasted a long time in the sleep of indolence and the gratification of your worldly ambition. It is time for you to awake.

10. The same paper has the following:—

The Boer war.

Some English statesmen have admitted that they made a mistake in estimating the Boer strength. It appears that England's standing army in South Africa is not strong enough to cope with the task which they have undertaken. A German correspondent of the *Times* says that England's present reverses in the Boer war are due to the fact that she is so proud of her greatness that she does not take her rival Powers into consideration. The Boers' strategical advantages are numerous. They have sufficient provision. Most of the English troops who are fighting with the Boers are sickly and panic-stricken. If those English troops were reorganised, not more than forty thousand would be found among them able to stand on the field. Fifty thousand fresh English troops ought to be sent out to take part in the Transvaal war. The Boers are fighting desperately for favourable terms, hearing that the European Powers intend to interfere.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

11. A correspondent, writing in the *Sanjivani* of the 30th November, says that the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum and the police sub-inspector of Ghatsila are trying their best to prevent fraudulent cooly-recruitment in the district. Unfortunately, however, most people in the district and

Fraudulent cooly-recruitment in Singhbhum.

HABUL MATEEN,
Dec. 4th, 1899.

HABUL MATEEN.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

the Railway Company are helping the recruiters. One day the police sub-inspector, on arriving at the Ghatsila station, found that two people, fraudulently recruited, were being taken to Purulia. The station master and the guard tried to oppose the sub-inspector in his attempt to take them down from the train. These people were at last kept under the station master's custody. A few days after this the Traffic Superintendent of the Railway ordered the station master of Ghatsila to realise extra fare from any police officer who might be found waiting at the platform during train time.

On the 4th November last, Chhaku Maji and five other Sonthals of village Murhakati, within the jurisdiction of the Baharhagarha police station, complained to the Deputy Commissioner that in October last eighteen of their relatives had been fraudulently recruited and confined in the Purulia cooly depôt, that two of them had escaped and returned home, but nothing had been heard of the remaining sixteen. Complaint was also made to the Baharhagarha police, but they took no action in the matter.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

12. A correspondent writes in the same paper that about ten months ago the Deputy Magistrate of Netrakona, in the Mymensingh district, issued a warrant for the production of one Nityamayi Dasi, daughter-in-law of one Ram Sham De, of village Marahala, near the Durgapur station, who was alleged to have been abducted by one Ramjan Shaikh and others. Ramjan absconded with the girl to the house of one Kalim Shaikh of Ruhi village. The Netrakona police did not dare to disturb the peace of Ramjan for nine months. It was on the 16th November last that the special inspector arrested the whole gang with the girl. The authorities should enquire through whose negligence this Hindu girl has been ruined.

In the case of Jaikali Dasi, the two police constables gave evidence on behalf of the defendants, who have been convicted and punished. Why did the police try to screen the offenders?

BASUMATI,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

13. The *Basumati* of the 30th November complains of the oppression of Babu Kalipada Mitra, a resident of village Chautar, near Kaikala in the Hooghly district, and head master of the Kaikala High English School, by some local *badmashes*. As long ago as October 1896, there was theft in Kalipada Babu's house. There was a police enquiry, but the offenders were not detected. Since then brickbats are being thrown into his house, and its back door is being violently rapped almost every night. The local police has failed to detect the offenders, notwithstanding the offer of a reward made by Kalipada Babu.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 1st, 1899.

14. A correspondent complains in the *Hitavadi* of the 1st December that the road from the Gafargaon station in the Netrakona subdivision of the Mymensingh district is infested with highway robbers, who lie concealed in the roadside jungle and pounce upon helpless passers-by. Arrests and convictions of these *badmashes* had for some time kept them in check, but they are again showing signs of activity. The other day they attacked two helpless boys and were about to rob them of their wrappers, when some passers-by appeared and put them to flight. Such occurrences are by no means rare, and they prove the inefficiency of the local police.

HITAVADI.

15. Another correspondent complains in the same paper of an instance of a cooly-recruiting abuse. He met a cooly at Tejpur, with the initials of his name marked on his hand. The young man on enquiry said that his name was Lalbehari Sarkar, that his father was a gentleman residing at Calcutta, and that he had been recruited under a false pretence. He is at present working as a cooly in the Siling tea garden, Tejpur, Assam.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Dec. 1st, 1899.

16. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st December says that one Pali Bauruni, a girl of tender age, of village Malen Devli, within the jurisdiction of the Khatra police station, district Bankura, went with one Nistarini Devi, of that village, to Bankura. They put up at Indara Gora, in Becharam Modak's shop.

A suspected case of fraudulent coolie-recruitment in Bankura.

But nothing has been heard of her since the 22nd November. Her relations have reported to the Deputy Magistrate, and a police enquiry has been ordered. It is generally believed that she has been fraudulently carried away as a cooly.

17. A correspondent, writing in the *Dacca Prakash* of the 3rd December, says, that the villages Manikganj, Amdala, Kaira, Ulail and Kasto Sagar, in the Dacca district, are full of dense jungle, inhabited by wild boars, tigers, and other wild animals. Being unable to go to their fields to cut their paddy for fear of these wild animals the villagers applied to the Subdivisional Officer to clear the jungle. The police officer of the Sibalay police station was accordingly ordered to clear the jungle, but he has not done anything up to this time. On the 16th of November last one Mahes Bhuimali, of village Amdala, was severely mauled by a wild boar.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Dec. 3rd, 1899.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

18. The *Charu Mihir* of the 28th November says that Babu Govind Chandra Basak, Munsif, Mymensingh, often dismisses suits without calling upon the pleaders of the parties to state their cases. Justice is not, therefore, done in suits in which the parties do not appear in person, but depend entirely on pleaders. The practice followed by the Munsif may help him in clearing his file, but the ends of justice are not satisfied by it.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 28th, 1899.

19. The same paper says that a mukhtar coming to the Joint Magistrate's Court, Mymensingh, to deposit process fee was passing along the verandah on the north of the court-room. The Joint Magistrate called the mukhtar to his presence, abused him, and afterwards caused him to remain standing for some time with his face towards the wall. The Joint Magistrate is also in the habit of making faces at the pleaders and mukhtars when hearing cases.

CHARU MIHIR.

20. The *Medini Bandhav* of the 29th November says that on Saturday last Mr. Jarbo, Deputy Magistrate of Midnapore, saw one Hit Narayan, warder in the Midnapore Central Jail, passing through his compound. He at once called him to his presence, kicked him, and set his dogs upon him. Hit Narayan was bitten by the dogs. On the same day Hit Narayan lodged a complaint against Mr. Jarbo, and the District Magistrate has called for an explanation from the Deputy Magistrate.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Nov. 29th, 1899.

21. With reference to the remarks of the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet on an application submitted by Babu Kunja Bihari Das, a resident of Maulvi Bazar, against a summary decision of the Subdivisional Officer of that place, in a case in which the applicant charged Mr. Peter, a tea-planter, and his *syce* with assault, the *Sanjivani* of the 30th November writes as follows:—We have nothing to say after what the Deputy Commissioner has himself said, and we hope that Mr. Cotton will prevent miscarriage of justice by refraining from appointing inexperienced civilians to responsible posts.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

22. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st December complains of the conduct of the Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Chaibassa in the Singhbhum district. On the 22nd November last the Sub-Deputy Magistrate saw Babu Rakhal Chandra Chatterji, a local pleader, coming to his Court. He had the pleader called, and asked him why he had abused him the previous day. Rakhal Babu replied that he had not abused him. But this did not satisfy the Sub-Deputy Magistrate, and the poor pleader was roughly handled. Rakhal Babu brought the matter to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, who said that the Sub-Deputy Magistrate was a hot-headed young man, and Rakhal Babu should not be offended with him. This reply not having satisfied Rakhal Babu, he has made a representation to the Lieutenant-Governor. It is to be hoped that Sir John Woodburn will do justice to the petitioner.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 1st, 1899.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 2nd, 1899.

23. The *Bangavasi* of the 2nd December has the following :—

The case of the Subordinate
Judge.

On the 27th of April last a Subordinate Judge
of Chapra sent the following complaint to the
District Judge, Mr. Caspersz :—

CHAPRA,

The 27th April 1899.

SIR,

I regret to bring to your notice the following circumstances that took place on Monday, the 24th instant, on board the ferry steamer plying between Digba Ghât and Paleza Ghât, when I was crossing the river with family and children. We were second class passengers, and on the arrival of the train at Digba Ghât, I sent my wife with my boys to the steamer, I myself being very busy in looking after my luggage. When I reached the steamer, I learnt that my wife had gone to the upper deck, but my boys were not allowed to accompany her. I, in the hurry and confusion of the moment, ran up to the upper deck by the staircase, which, though meant for first class passengers, is often used by second class passengers as well, without any objection on the part of the steamer authorities. Just as I reached the upper deck, a European gentleman, whose name I subsequently learnt from Mr. Blythe to be Mr. Butler, Inspector of Local Works, who refused to give out his name, rather rudely told me not to pass by that way; but as I was anxious to find out where my wife was, I did not mind his prohibition, and protested against his interference. Thereupon he lost his temper, and, holding me by the neck and arm, gave me a violent push down the staircase, and I narrowly escaped being tumbled down on the lower deck, though I received some bruises. All this was done in the presence of Mr. Blythe and other numerous passengers, many of whom are the residents of this district. You know my position as a Judicial Officer, and you can easily imagine the degree of insult and humiliation to which I was subjected by this unexpected and most unjustifiable assault. I need hardly mention the mental pain and the loss of reputation caused to me by this unfortunate occurrence. I may, therefore, be permitted to submit this tale of grievance to you in the sanguine hope that, as an official superior, you would favour me with your kind advice in the matter for obtaining the necessary redress.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

To—C. P. CASPERSZ, ESQ.

A week later the District Judge sent the following reply :—

The 6th May 1899.

DEAR SIR,

I am now in a position to advise you on the subject of your letter of 27th instant.

So far as Mr. Blythe is concerned the incident is closed; but there is no doubt that Mr. Butler did nothing until after you had disregarded Mr. Blythe's courteous warning that the staircase was for first class passengers only. You admit you were in the wrong, and plead that you were anxious to find out where your wife was; but you had no reason to suppose that she was in the first class part of the deck, and it would not have taken 30 seconds longer for you to have gone up by the second class stairs.

I consider that you are to blame in several respects—

(a). For creating a scene and making a noise.

(b). For behaving as if you were a Subordinate Judge travelling on duty, whereas you were merely on casual leave by my indulgence and the permission of the High Court.

(c). For acting as if Messrs. Blythe and Butler were non-officials. Of course, the fact of their being officials makes no difference in the matter. But it seems that your conduct would have been different had you known from the first that Messrs. Blythe and Butler were not gentlemen connected with the indigo industry.

I expect you now to tender (through me) an apology to Mr. Butler, Divisional Inspector of Works, for your rude conduct. On your doing so, I shall ask him to express his regret that he was obliged (however mistakenly) to punish you.

Unless the matter is settled in the above way I shall report the facts, and your casual leave will in future be jeopardised. Your apology should be as follows:—"Under the advice of the District Judge, I hereby voluntarily tender my apology to Mr. T. Butler, District Inspector of Works, Bankipur, for my rude conduct towards him on the 24th April last at Digha Ghât."

Yours sincerely,

C. P. CASPERSZ.

The District Judge also wrote a letter to Mr. Butler, who gave the following reply:—

DEAR SIR,

I am in receipt of yours of 28th ultimo, and much obliged for the trouble you have taken in the matter. May I ask you to be good enough to inform Babu.....that I cannot allow the matter to drop, and intend to send it to the Commissioner for any action he thinks fit. I will, however, keep it back till 15th instant to allow the Babu a further opportunity of submitting an ample apology both for his behaviour on the steamer, and for subsequently misrepresenting the matter to you.

Yours sincerely,

T. BUTLER.

To—C. P. CASPERSZ, Esq.,

District Judge.

The Sub-Judge wrote in reply to the District Judge:—

SIR,

In returning Mr. Butler's letter after perusal, allow me to observe that I am surprised at the remark that I have misrepresented the matter to you. I assure you that there was not the least misrepresentation, and that what I stated to you is the pure and simple truth. I expressed my willingness to drop it, not that my case was weak and unsupportable, but because I did not like to give a place in the public record to the indignities I suffered at Mr. Butler's hand, because I was alarmed at the idea that it might give offence to you, my kind master, who is naturally inclined to do good to us, and who practically helped me in various ways. It would be a great misfortune to me to annoy such a master. I laid my grievance before you, my official superior, hoping to obtain redress for the injury sustained, and if Mr. Butler now seeks to enhance my humiliation, I must look upon you for protection; for if I have the satisfaction of knowing that I still continue to enjoy your former confidence, the sense of my own innocence over the deplorable incident will save me from the absolutely unfounded charge. I would now implore you to forgive me if the step proposed by Mr. Butler compels me to place my case in the hands of my legal advisers.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

To—C. P. CASPERSZ, Esq.,

District Judge.

On receiving this reply Mr. Caspersz became very angry, and wrote in reply that if the Sub-Judge did not do as he had advised him, he would report to the High Court against him. Therefore the Sub-Judge had no alternative but to ask pardon of Mr. Butler; but even this did not save him. It is said that, at the request of Mr. Bourdillon, Mr. Bolton has transferred the Sub-Judge to Barisal.

The Sub-Judge wrote to the High Court against this order for his transfer, and, fortunately for him, Mr. Pennell came as the District Judge of Chapra and sent his petition to the High Court with the following remarks:—

Dated Matihari, the 14th September 1899.

From—A. P. PENNELL, Esq., District Judge of Saran, Camp Matihari,
To—The Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Bengal, Calcutta.

I have the honour to submit, for the favourable consideration of the High Court, a representation from the Additional Sub-Judge of Saran concerning his transfer to Backergunge.

2. Babu.....has worked exceedingly hard and well during his service in this Judgeship, and I have every reason to be satisfied with him.

3. Sometime back he was unfortunate enough to incur the displeasure of the local Executive authorities on account of his being assaulted by an Executive Engineer named Butler, residing at Bankipore. He was about to bring a case against Mr. Butler; but, at the instance of the Commissioner of Patna, Mr. Bourdillon, and under pressure from my predecessor, Mr. Caspersz, he not only abstained from bringing a case, but apologised to Mr. Butler. Mr. Bourdillon, however, was not satisfied with this, and wrote to Mr. Caspersz that, as the Babu had at first refused to apologise, he would write to Mr. Bolton to get him transferred from Bihar, and that, in order to prevent suspicion as to the reason for the transfer, it would be made at the time of some general move.

4. It seems to me inequitable that Babu.....should be punished merely because he was not sufficiently forward in apologising for running against Mr Butler's fist; and if a senior officer of the Subordinate Judicial Service, a man of over fifty years of age, is treated in this manner on the *ex-parte* representation of the Executive authorities, it will be hopeless to expect any independence from the members of that service in cases in which the Government or the Executive authority are concerned.

5. I therefore venture to recommend that, unless Babu.....is transferred for some reason capable of being publicly stated, the order for his transfer may be cancelled, and that he may be allowed to remain in his present appointment.

When the matter has gone to the High Court, the Lieutenant-Governor and the Viceroy will certainly hear of it, and the matter is likely to come to the notice of even the Secretary of State. We wait for the result.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 4th, 1899.

24. Referring to the decision passed in the Norton case by the Calcutta High Court, the *Bharat Mitra* of the 4th December says that if it had been the decision of the Allahabad High Court, no one would have been sorry. But from a Court of Justice like the Calcutta High Court, no one expected such decision. The punishment meted out to Ahmad Raza is certainly too severe for the crime he committed.

SRI-SRI VISHNU PRIYA
O-ANANDA BAZAR
PRATIKA,
Dec. 6th, 1899.

25. With reference to the decision of the High Court in the Norton case, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 6th December writes that the punishment inflicted on the accused is too severe and out of proportion to his offence, considering the trouble and harassment to which he has already been subjected. It is a common thing in the streets to find Europeans whipping natives in order to make way for their carriages. Have these Europeans been ever sentenced to imprisonment?

(d)—Education.

SANSODHINI,
Nov. 22nd, 1899

26. The *Sansodhini* of the 22nd November has the following:—

Curious school inspection in Chittagong.

We are sorry to hear that orders have been passed requiring the teachers of pathshalas in and near Chittagong town to present themselves with their pupils near Ahmadi & Co.'s shop by the river side, where the Inspector of Schools will inspect them. Perhaps the Inspector wants to do inspection duty from on board his boat. But Ahmadi & Co.'s shop is nearly six or seven miles from Shola Sahar and other neighbouring villages from which pupils will have to go. Besides, there is no sitting accommodation for

pupils at that place. We ask, who has invented this curious method of inspection? Last year the Inspector had all the pupils of the nearest pathsalas gathered at a certain pathsala and examined them there. We know that the pupils suffered greatly from hunger and thirst on that occasion. We hope that this order will be withdrawn.

27. The same paper has the following:—

The hostel for Musalman students in Chittagong town.

We are glad that the Musalmans of Chittagong are desirous of improving the condition of the hostel for Musalman students at this place. They have applied for the surplus of the Chittagong Cyclone Relief Fund. We think that something ought to be paid from that surplus, considering that the hostel building was destroyed by cyclone.

We also make the following suggestions:—

- (1) At present the hostel building is in the name of Emdad Mia, but it ought to be registered in the name of its Secretary.
- (2) The head masters and head maulavis of all the Entrance schools in the place ought to be members of the Committee, and Kazim Ali Mia should remain Secretary and Superintendent.
- (3) At present Government pays only annas 8 per month for each student in the hostel. The Musalmans in this district are very poor, and cannot afford to pay more than Rs. 3 a month each. Government ought, therefore, to pay at least Rs. 2 for each student.

28. The *Charu Mihir* of the 28th November says that Raja Sasi Sek-

Raja Peary Mohan Mukherji on the Raj Kumar College.

hareswar Roy was sanguine about the establishment of a Raj Kumar College in Bengal. But the speech delivered by Raja Peary Mohan Mukherji at the annual meeting of the British Indian Association has been a deathblow for the Raja's project. The thunderbolt has been hurled at the right moment. Raja Peary Mohan is a distinguished graduate, true to his University, who has, by condemning the Raja's project, not only upheld the prestige of high education, but also done a valuable service to the zamindars. We attach so much value to the Raja's speech, because it is a speech delivered by the spokesman of the zamindars of Bengal. The newspapers strongly wrote against the project, but their protest did not please the projectors. Now that one of their own number has spoken against it, the Bengal aristocracy will follow his advice.

29. The *Medini Bandhav* of the 29th November says that the last two

The Lower Primary Examination in the Midnapore Circle.

years the Lower Primary Examination in the Midnapore Circle was conducted in the Hardinge School under the supervision of the Head Master of that institution. In the first year of his appointment as such Superintendent he was taken to task by Mr. K. D. Dutt, the then Chairman of the Municipality, for committing oppression on the examinees and their teachers. This year also he did the same. In previous years the teachers were allowed to enter the examination hall to find out for the boys their allotted seats. This year they were not allowed to enter the examination hall. His order was that the boys should enter the hall by one door and leave it by another. There was for this reason great rush, in which a little boy fell down and fractured his skull. No time for recreation was allowed to the examinees, who suffered from hunger and thirst. We hope that the Secretary of the District Board will see that in future an able man is appointed as Superintendent, and the examination is fairly conducted.

30. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 29th November has the following:—

Babu Nabin Chandra Sen's "Palasir Yuddha."

We do not feel inclined to believe that the Government has called for an explanation from Babu Nabin Chandra Sen for the patriotic passages contained in his "Palasir Yuddha." But, considering the present temper of the officials and their attitude towards the poor Bengalis, one cannot help believing it. The book was published long ago and has been often placed on the stage, but has not been considered seditious till now. The Bengalis are a people who will not warm up by reading even the most inflammatory book. It is nothing but the groundless fear of some low-minded Englishmen disposed to insult the law of the land that is at the root of this matter.

SANSODHINI,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 28th, 1899.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Nov. 29th, 1899.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Nov. 29th, 1899.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

31. The *Basumati* of the 30th November contains the following from Babu Krishna Mohan Chakravarti, contradicting certain statements published in that paper against the Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Circle (*vide* Report on Native Papers for the 18th November 1899, paragraph 21).

Since 1888, when Babu Abinash Chandra Chatterji was a Professor in the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, he has been the owner of one coal mine and not three, and the Government knows this. His coal mine is managed by his brother and other relations. It is not true that Abinash Babu passed fifty days in Burdwan during the litigation in connection with his coal mine. For during that time he was the Principal of the Chittagong College, and when the suit was compromised through the arbitration of Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi, he was the Assistant Inspector of Schools at Bankipore.

It was when Dr. Martin was the Inspector of the Burdwan Circle that Sasi Babu's *Charu Siksha* came to be appointed by the Chairmen of District Boards after comparison with other books of the same nature. Sasi Babu is not Abinash Babu's cousin; Abinash Babu is in no way related to Sasi Babu. To tell the truth, Abinash Babu does not blindly favour any book; he judges all books on their merits. He is not like some Inspectors who appoint their own books or the books of their friends as text-books. He has no book of his own, and he has not appointed as a text-book even that excellent poetical primer, *Padya Path*, because it is written by his cousin, Babu Jadugopal Chatterji.

There is nothing on record to prove that Babu Tripura Charan Banerji, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Howrah, was transferred because the Howrah District Board removed *Charu Siksha* from their list of text-books. The Director of Public Instruction alone knows why a stain was cast on his fair fame and he was transferred.

Babu Arunraj Ray Chaudhuri was a clerk in the Hooghly Normal School. The Government ordered that all clerks who had to deal with cash should give security. Arun Babu applied for one month's time, and his application was granted. But he failed to make the deposit within the prescribed time, and the Inspector granted him two month's leave. At the end of the three months, Arun Babu neither deposited money nor sent the Inspector any information on the subject. The Inspector had, therefore, to submit the case to the Director, and wanted to know whether his post was to be considered as vacant. He also requested his own Head Clerk to take Arun Babu into his office, but as there was no vacancy in his office, his Head Clerk could not comply with his request. Upon this, Abinash Babu gave Arun Babu another fifteen days' time, and plainly informed him that he would lose his appointment if he did not deposit the required amount at the end of that time. A few days after this, Abinash Babu availed himself of two months' leave. Mr. Muhammad Sidik officiated for him, and he appointed Satis Babu to Arun Babu's post.

DACCA PRAKASH
Dec. 3rd, 1899.

32. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 3rd December has the following:—

The M. A. class in the Dacca College. Does the Government wish to abolish the M. A. class from the Dacca College? Under the new rules, the Dacca College ought to have two European Professors; but there is only one, namely, Mr. Mondy, the Principal, and not even this one European has the reputation of a good Professor. Two young native gentlemen, who completed their college career only three or four years ago, now lecture the M. A. class. There are many students in that class who are of the same age as their Professors, and there are some others who, having been their class friends, have stopped reading. The M. A. class cannot exist much longer.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

SANSODHINI,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

33. The *Sansodhini* of the 22nd November says that 32 cows have died of cow-pox in Chittagong town in the course of ten or twelve days. This has caused an alarm among the people. It is not known whether the Government has taken any action in the matter.

34. The *Dainik Chandrika* of the 30th November has the following with

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

The Government Resolution on
the Municipal Administration of
Calcutta.

reference to the recent Resolution of the Bengal Government on Municipal Administration in Calcutta:—Considering the time at which the Resolution has appeared and the tone in which it is written, it seems as if Government means to say something like this: "We are entrusted with your welfare, and, in the belief that your comfort and happiness would be promoted by elected Commissioners, we gave you the right of local self-government. But experience shows that you are not yet fit to possess that right. We do not, of course, say that your Commissioners did bad work, but we do say they should have done still better. Lest you afterwards suffer, we have been compelled to curtail the powers of your elected Commissioners." That this is not a perverted interpretation of the meaning of the Resolution appears from the following explicit statement of the Lieutenant-Governor himself:—"The record is a good one, and the Lieutenant-Governor desires to accord all due credit to the Commissioners under whose management it has been achieved. At the same time it would be an easy, if ungracious, task to point out that there is another side to the shield. It has often been remarked that the Commissioners are seen at their best in dealing with large projects. Had they devoted to the every-day work of the town—to the collection of their revenues, to the conduct of their conservancy, and to the enforcement of their building regulations,—the same energy and interest that they have brought to bear on more showy but not more important matters, their administration would have claimed a different verdict from the voice of public opinion." The Lieutenant-Governor does not say anything about the indefatigable manner in which the unfortunate native Commissioners worked for the improvement of the city. He only makes mention of the faults which their enemies have attributed to them. If the Government of this country wishes to pass a new measure in the name of amending an existing one, who can oppose it? That none can oppose it in so doing was proved by the passing of the Consent Bill; and in the passing of the Municipal Bill has been found a further proof. It is owing to the exertions of the elected Commissioners, who have been working so long, for no selfish purpose of their own, that Calcutta is what it is—"the City of Palaces" and the sanitarium of Bengal. Most of the Chairmen of the Calcutta Municipality have praised them for efficiency, and repelled the accusations brought against them by a certain class of selfish Englishmen. But all this counts for little in official opinion. The Calcutta Municipal Bill must be passed or the English prestige will be gone. Neither reason, argument, nor consideration for justice can stand before prestige. If prestige goes away, it will be difficult for the English to live among natives. Therefore, this Municipal Bill. Then do not cry against it. You are a subject people; you are cowards. What do you know of local self-government? You are not fit for it. Some Englishmen gave you this right simply to joke with you. But the time for joking is gone. The city was going to be ruined for a joke. Keep yourselves in the dark, as you had so long done, and let us look to our own business.

35. The *Basumati* of the 30th November writes as follows:—

BASUMATI,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

Malaria in Bengal.

"What shall we do in malaria?" This is the question which many are putting to us. We cannot leave our ancestral abodes, and to live in Calcutta with family is becoming day by day impossible. Service is no longer available to Bengalis in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab. But malaria is exterminating whole families in Bengal. The Government does not appear to have done anything to check its rapid growth. It has passed the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, established a Sanitary Department, appointed European medical experts on large salaries. Thanks to the Local Self-Government Act, new taxes are being imposed, big reports are being issued, and oppression by the municipal tax-collector, the municipal constable, the municipal sanitary officer, the Municipal Secretary, the Municipal Vice-Chairman, and the Municipal Chairman is growing day by day unbearable. The Government is from time to time raising the cry of filtered water-supply, but in the meantime rivers and canals are silting up, tanks and wells are going out of repair, the railway is spreading all over the country as network, the drainage of Bengal is getting obstructed, rain water is sinking into the soil, and Bengalis are dying in shoals

like worms. You know how to die; you are accustomed to dying. Then, why should you not die? If you can afford to live in Calcutta, come and enjoy its cheap comforts. The tram, the theatre, the circus, the cheap ice—enjoy these to your heart's content. Let your children taste the bane of luxury and become as delicate and showy as waxen dolls, as brittle as the sugar confectionery of Mankar. Do you die, and then the Government will pass a new Act. There is the Drainage Act, and you will then get another measure of the same nature.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

36. The same paper complains that cholera is raging in Masura, a village in the Faridpur district, since the 2nd November last. People are dying for want of proper medical treatment. The death-rate of twenty or twenty-one a week is alarming enough for such a small village.

37. The *Sanjivani* of the 30th November has the following:—

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

The nominations to the Calcutta Municipality.

Bengalis who would never have been elected as Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality have been nominated by the Government. It is a shame and regret that an educated and independent gentleman like Babu Nabin Chandra Baral should have allowed himself to be nominated. We have nothing to say about the other Commissioners. They have only proved true to the degraded Bengali nature.

SANJIVANI.

38. The same paper complains that cholera has broken out in many villages within the jurisdiction of the Sibganj police station in the Bogra district. About 300 people have died for want of proper medical treatment within three months. The Government is requested to send a competent medical practitioner to the village.

BANGA BANDHU,
Dec. 2nd, 1899.

39. The *Banga Bandhu* of the 2nd December says that malaria is raging furiously in Syamnagar, Atpur, Jagaddal, and other villages in the 24-Parganas district. As there are no competent doctors in these villages, the Municipality ought to open a charitable dispensary in the central village of Atpur.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation*

PALLIVASI,
Nov. 29th, 1899.

40. The *Pallivasi* of the 29th November says that the condition of the Burdwan-Jahanabad road, and especially the four miles from Burdwan to Babuakar, is deplorable, and carts and passengers find great difficulty in using it. The bridges over this road are also in a dangerous condition.

(h)—*General.*

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

41. The *Sanjivani* of the 30th November has the following:—

The Inspector-Generalship of Registration.

We hear that a Civilian will be appointed in the place of Khan Bahadur Delawar Hossein, the Inspector-General of Registration, on his retirement. But why appoint a Civilian to the post when experienced Deputy Magistrates have already held it with credit? The Deputy Magistrates have been deprived of their right to the Superintendships in the Government Secretariat, and they are now going to be deprived of the post of Inspector-General of Registration. A conspiracy is also at work to deprive them of the post of Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta.

SANJIVANI.

42. The same paper says that Mr. Rolt, of the Tirhut Indigo Factory, is an extremely lucky man. He first got the managership of the Narham estate in the Darbhanga district. Next, when the young zamindar of that estate died, the then Magistrate and Collector of Darbhanga made him Manager of the same estate under the Court of Wards. Again, when the widow of the deceased zamindar objected to his managership, he was given the Khagra managership, Mr. Tweedie, who held it at that time, going to the Narham estate. This was a gain to Mr. Rolt, the Khagra managership carrying a high salary. According to the *Bihar Herald*, Mr. Rolt has also got the managership of the

estate of Asghar Reza Khan Bahadur, of Patna. And Mr. Rolt has got all this within five or six years. He has certainly patrons to push him on. But the Board of Revenue ought to have considered the claims of those natives who have long served the Court of Wards with ability, but have now nothing to do or are otherwise employed. Their claim is certainly superior to that of a young indigo planter.

43. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 1st December has the following:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 1st, 1899.

Lord Curzon and the Jumma Musjid.

To-day we have the pleasure of conveying happy news to our Musalman brethren. For the last 43 years, since the Sepoy Mutiny, the Indian Mussalmans have been feeling a great pang in their heart, and the Musalmans of Delhi have been witnessing a revolting scene. That pang and anguish have been removed; that revolting scene will no longer be enacted. The Jumma Musjid of Delhi is one of the beautiful sights in India. European officials had been so long entering its compound with shoes on, and thereby wounding the feelings of all faithful Musalmans. But now, after 43 years, Lord Curzon, the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, that noble-minded, large-hearted, conscientious and powerful ruler has, in his gracious and kindly manner, put a stop to this evil practice. He set a noble example to all European officials when he put his booted feet into stockings before entering the compound of the Musjid. He has also ordered that no European shall enter the compound with shoes on. Thanks to Lord Curzon! a thousand thanks! The entire Musalman community of India is blessing you for this kind and gracious act. This order will for ever remain written on their heart in letters of gold.

44. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st December writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
Dec. 1st, 1899.

The plague in Calcutta.

In the opinion of the general public, there is no plague in Calcutta. But, thanks to the messengers of plague, the epidemic is said to be still prevalent in the city. The *Bengalee* gives publicity to the following incident:—one Kailash Chandra Sen, a resident of Ward No. III, living in a tiled hut, No. 29-1, fell ill on the 10th October and died of cancer on the 20th November. He was under the treatment of Babu Madhav Krishna Das, L.M.S., who did not suspect plague in the deceased. But the plague officers, who never saw Kailash, at once came to the conclusion that he had died of plague. His clothing and bedding were burnt, his room was disinfected, and its roof was untiled. No compensation, however, was paid. In this way the plague list was swelled.

Now, plague officers may invent plague cases in order to keep themselves in their posts; but are the authorities justified in accepting their reports as correct? If plague had not disappeared from Calcutta, plague patients would have got themselves admitted to the Medical College Hospital. When there was really an outbreak of plague in Calcutta, many plague patients were found in that hospital. Are such patients found there now? Can that disease be called plague which kills only half a score of people in a week? We ask the authorities to act in this matter with great care and circumspection. We want to see our money, which is as dear to us as blood, properly spent.

45. The *Samiran* of the 6th December writes as follows:—

SAMIRAN,
Dec. 6th, 1899.

The Inspector-Generalship of Registration.

Khan Bahadur Delawar Hossein, Inspector-General of Registration, is going to retire in the beginning of next year. So long it has been the practice to fill this post with an experienced native official chosen from among those who have served the Government with credit. But the *Englishman* has set the rumour afloat that on the retirement of the present incumbent, Mr. Russell, a civilian, will be appointed to the post. The pay attached to the post is most probably Rs. 1,500 a month, and it will not be advisable to appoint a civilian of six years' standing to the post. Why, again, should a civilian be appointed to the post when experienced native officials, have very creditably served as Inspectors-General of Registration? It appears that the Government is gradually going to appoint civilians to all high posts. The *Indian Mirror*, however, contradicts the *Englishman's* statement about the intended appointment of Mr. Russell to the post of Inspector-General of Registration.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANGA BHUMI,
Dec. 5th, 1899.

46. The *Banga Bhumi* of the 5th December says that nothing has yet been done to relieve the distress of the helpless people of Bhagalpur. The District Magistrate is trying his best to relieve their distress, but unless the Government and the generous public assist him in the matter, he will not be able to do anything. Sixty villages were washed away by the flood and about 6,000 people have been rendered homeless. They are suffering from want of warm clothing in this cold season.

SRI SRI VISHNUPRIYA-
O-ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 6th, 1899.

47. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 6th December writes as follows:—
How to cope with the famine. The number of people on famine relief works is daily increasing. The Government is trying its best to prevent deaths from starvation. Relief works are being opened in almost all the famine-stricken places. Two things cause death from starvation:—want of money and heavy export of food-grains. Speaking from our experience we can say that both these causes are in existence on the present occasion, and the Government ought to provide against them. The remuneration granted to the men on the relief works is not adequate as many of them have families to maintain. The Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces has made a representation on the subject to the Government of India. Many will die from starvation if Lord Curzon, who has personally inspected the relief works and the condition of the famine-stricken, does not take this matter into his favourable consideration. It has also become urgently necessary to stop the exportation of food grains, from the country. If the food grains which will be soon reaped in Bengal, Madras, and Burma are not allowed to be taken out of the country and are sent to the famine-stricken provinces, it will be easy to cope with the famine.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SANSODHINI,
Nov. 2nd, 1899.

48. The *Sansodhini* of the 22nd November says that subscriptions are being raised in Chittagong for the reception of the Lieutenant-Governor, and nearly all the *amla* have had to pay their contributions. The Lieutenant-Governor is the representative of our Queen and the incarnation of justice in the eye of the Hindus and Musalmans and his reception ought, therefore, to be equal to his rank. But it is at the same time highly objectionable to waste money raised from the poor in a display of fireworks. Rupees 500 was originally sanctioned by the Reception Committee for fireworks. Babu Nityananda Ray objected to it, and the amount has been reduced to Rs. 200. It would have been better if this item had been altogether omitted. It is not at all advisable to waste money in these days of distress. Many are dying of starvation in the Punjab and Rajputana, but we do not see the Chittagong people taking any notice of that.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Nov. 29th, 1899.

49. The *Medini Bandhav* of the 29th November has the following:—
The silk industry in Midnapore. The Government ought to look after the improvement of the silk industry in Midnapore. Good silk cloth is still manufactured in Ghatal, Midnapore and other places in this district. The officials ought to give the manufacturers proper advice and encouragement. It will be doing a good to the district if these manufacturers are encouraged. In the present condition of the district, we cannot count upon local enterprise or upon the talukdars and zamindars for the improvement of this industry. The attention of the Government should be drawn to the matter.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Nov. 29th, 1899.

50. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 29th November has the following:—
Raja Sourindra Mohan Tagore's benevolence. Subscriptions are being raised in Calcutta as well as in England for the families of the killed and wounded in the Transvaal war. We hear that about Rs. 50,000 have been already subscribed in Calcutta. Raja Sourindra Mohan Tagore of Calcutta has subscribed Rs. 400 and one of his employes Rs. 50. The Raja wishes all his brother zamindars to subscribe to the fund. There can be no question as to the propriety of helping the distressed by the high-minded rich. But the Government has already made arrangement for the

relief of helpless soldiers and their families. Are we to send money to England simply because a fund has been opened there? Is there no other means of showing loyalty to the Government? How much money, we ask, has the kind-hearted Raja Bahadur subscribed for the relief of the distressed in Bhagalpur, which is nearer home? Has he taken any notice of the helpless and starving beggars in the streets? Has he tried to bring money from England for their relief? How many people in England have sent money for their relief? Do not our Raja Bahadurs know that charity should begin at home? The Government has not as yet asked them to contribute anything to the fund. Why their endeavour to show themselves off by coming forward with money when money has not been asked for?

51. The *Basumati* of the 30th November is glad to learn that Mr. Bolton has permitted Babu Kali Prasanna Kavyabisharad, Editor of the *Hitavadi*, access to the records of the Bengal Secretariat. Kali Prasanna Babu wants to write the lives of Mahammad Reza Khan, Setav Ray, Raja Rajbullabh, Maharaja Krishna Chandra, Maharaja Nandakumar, Maharaja Nava Krishna, Gokul Ghosal and other great Bengalis of the 18th century. Mr. Bolton has also given Kali Prasanna Babu permission to dedicate some of his works to him. This is certainly a great honour conferred, and not a small matter for pride for a Bengali historiographer. That a high official has given a Bengali access to the records of the Secretariat is something to be proud of. Kali Prasanna Babu deserves the honour conferred on him. He is a good, able and learned writer.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 30th, 1899.

52. In a cartoon the same paper writes that a clerk of the Bengal Secretariat has been fined Rs. 10 for reading war news published in its columns. The Babu was reading the paper aloud in office time, when his European official superior came in, and, having ascertained what he was about, gave him a violent shaking and fined him ten rupees. The European official is represented as having passed his order in the following words:—

BASUMATI.

“Native papers all seditious; all these humbug. Look here Sib, I fine you Rs. 10 this time. I take this lenient view of your first crime.”

Three pictures are given. In the first the clerk is shown as reading a copy of the *Basumati* with a beaming face. In the second, the European official is shown as standing before the clerk with a wry face and a cigar in his mouth, and the clerk as hiding the paper behind his back. In the third picture, a Babu is shown as consoling the offending clerk.

53. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 1st December, in an article headed “Islam violently attacked,” publishes some more extracts from the chapter in the Roman Catholic publication, “মত বর্ষ নিরূপণ” (Ascertainment of the True Religion), (*vide* Report on Native Papers for the 25th November, 1899, paragraph 58, in which the prophet and his religion are said to have been grossly attacked. In foot notes, the writer refutes some of the statements in the extracts.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 1st, 1899.

54. The *Bangavasi* of the 2nd December is glad to see the zamindars of the Presidency Division highly praised by Mr. Buckland in his Annual Administration Report. The zamindars being the pillars of the State and leaders of society and with their degradation, society and the State equally suffer. The more the power and influence of the zamindars in Bengal decrease, the greater will be the loss to society and the State. One wishes to see the zamindars of Bengal prosperous, influential and loyal.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 2nd, 1899.

55. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 3rd December has the following:—
The Government has come to know, after enquiry, that there has been no falling off in sugarcane cultivation owing to the importation of foreign sugar, and that foreign sugar has done injury only to the indigenous refined sugar. We do not know how many years' statistics were considered by the Government in arriving at this conclusion. We know that 20 or 25 years ago sugarcane was grown on thousands of *bighas* in villages within the jurisdiction of the Sibalay police-station, district Dacca, but it is doubtful whether even one *bigha* is under sugarcane cultivation in those villages now. It is difficult to protect sugarcane against the ravages of wild boars. The cultivation of sugarcane also requires

DACCA PRAKASH,
Dec. 3rd, 1899.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Dec. 6th, 1899.

much labour. Why should raiyats who, thanks to the Tenancy Act, often enjoy land without paying rent for it, take to the laborious sugarcane cultivation if they can reap other good harvests with less labour?

56. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 6th December has the following:—

"The symptoms and treatment of plague."

The symptoms of plague and its treatment are given below in the form of a catechism for the benefit of the public. Everybody knows what the usual symptoms of plague are. These are high fever, delirium and bubos in the groins. Some times there are bubos in the armpits and the face also. The fever lasts from two to four days after which the patient either dies or recovers. But these symptoms vary in particular localities. In this city of Calcutta many new symptoms of plague are observed. The other day the Plague Doctors held a meeting and discussed these new symptoms, and the proceedings of the meeting have been published in a previous issue of this paper.

In other places plague is attended with very high fever, but here in Calcutta a plague patient may have no fever at all. In other places a plague patient lies down and cannot move at all, but here in Calcutta the very opposite of this sometimes takes place. A plague patient here has been observed to have been even hewing wood. Everybody knows that this curious type of plague was discovered in Calcutta. When the police and a Plague Doctor went together to arrest this man, he leaped over a wall and escaped. So that a plague patient in Calcutta does not always lie down, but, on the contrary, walks about, takes rice, sleeps soundly—even does his own business. All the while, however, the plague is furiously burning within his body. Now hear the catechism:—

Question.—Describe fully the symptoms of a plague case in Calcutta.

Answer.—A full description would be impossible, for this paper is too small for a detailed account of all the symptoms. It may be possible to count the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the sea shore; but it is not possible to count the symptoms of a Calcutta plague case. If the god Ganesh were to write with his four hands himself, it is doubtful whether he would be able to complete a description of it in a thousand years.

Question.—Still describe them as fully as you can.

Answer.—Hear. In some plague cases in Calcutta there is headache, in some inflammation of the eyes, in some polipus, in some asthma, in some enlargement of the spleen, in some excessive appetite, in some a desire to smoke, &c., &c. The body becomes extremely weak, while in some cases it acquires great strength. Some snore while sleeping, and some are afflicted with a carbuncle on the upper lip.

Question.—Still it is not very clear. Do one thing. Last Saturday there were four plague cases in Calcutta, all of which ended fatally. Give a description of each of these cases.

Answer.—These four men died. The man who died in Ward No. 1 was named Harihar. The names of the two men who died in Ward No. 3 are not known to me, and the man who died in Ward No. 7 was named Ramchandra. Harihar had loose stools in the morning. Vomitting followed. The patient had convulsive fits in the evening and died at 12 midnight. The evacuations were exactly like rice gruel, and the patient did not urinate at all.

Question.—These are all symptoms of cholera.

Answer.—There may be some difference between plague and cholera, but there are certain Plague Doctors in Calcutta who do not at all admit the existence of any such difference. The two patients who died in Ward No. 3 passed excessive urine, which, on examination, was found to contain more than 50 per cent. of sugar. They subsequently suffered from carbuncles which were opened. The sores did not heal up, and both of them died.

Question.—Those are symptoms of diabetes.

Answer.—In Calcutta there is not much difference between plague and diabetes; at least, that is the opinion of certain Plague Doctors. As for the man who died in Ward No. 7, he had got drunk and was swimming in a tank in that condition when he was attacked with plague, got drowned and did not rise again. Water entered into his stomach and it was swollen.

Question.—That is death by drowning.

Answer.—Yes, it is. But in Calcutta there is not much difference between plague and getting drowned. This is the opinion of certain Plague Doctors.

Question.—These are the symptoms developed by plague patients. What are the symptoms developed by those who remain in the neighbourhood of such patients?

Answer.—There is death among rats and fear in the minds of those who are near. Particularly if the deceased be a male having a wife, that wife becomes a widow; if he be a man having a son, that son becomes fatherless, and if he has left a policy of life assurances, the party with whom the policy was effected sends up a loud wail.

Question.—What becomes of the other persons?

Answer.—People who are near find an opportunity of taking revenge. They send information to the police.

Question.—How does that country fare in which there is an outbreak of plague?

Answer.—A sedition law is passed in that country.

Question.—What else?

Answer.—Tilak is sent to jail.

Question.—What else?

Answer.—The Natu brothers are kept under surveillance.

Question.—What else?

Answer.—There are laughing and weeping in the country.

Question.—How laughing and weeping?

Answer.—The people weep, while Doctors and the police laugh.

Question.—What else takes place?

Answer.—A few poor creatures are entertained as doctors. They draw high salaries, but have very little work to do.

Question.—Give a description of these doctors?

Answer.—Many of them are *वर्तक* (which means bastard). We are not abusing them, but they become Russian Czars. Of course, they are not vested with any powers in Russia, but they give themselves the airs of a Czar. One feels a desire to salaam them when one sees them.

Question.—What else?

Answer.—If you go anywhere by rail, they catch you and say—"Remain standing, let me see if you have got plague."

Question.—What next?

Answer.—If you show a little spirit, you are done for. There are doctors who would catch you and send you to jail on the pretext that you have got plague. Wicked people some times even turn a few rupees by this means.

Question.—If the person travelling by rail is a Saheb?

Answer.—In that case, neither the Doctor nor the police seem very willing to come near him and keep themselves at some distance.

Question.—Now what should be done to avoid the plague?

Answer.—Fly, so that the police may not catch you.

Question.—What else?

Answer.—Purchase the *Ananda Bazar* and read it, and you will have no fear of plague.

URIYA PAPERS.

57. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 8th November is of opinion that a large

The famine.

part of both British and Native India is in distress, as according to its calculation about three crores of human beings stand in need of immediate relief. Unless Government prepares itself to meet the evil in time, many lives, according to the writer, will be lost. The writer further observes that famine occurs frequently in India and carries off a large portion of the Indian people in every decade. The enlightened British Government ought to do something to prevent its recurrence, and this can only be done by taking such steps as would diminish the poverty of the Indians, for there are few people in the world who are so poor as the Indians.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 8th, 1899.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 15th, 1899.

58. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 15th November apprehends immense loss of cattle owing to want of fodder in different parts of India. The writer contends that India is an agricultural country and its cattle form its valuable treasure. Unless cattle are protected in some way or other, cultivators in the distressed parts will be hardly able to resume their agricultural operations in the coming year. Thus in distressed parts not only men but cattle also need some relief.

UTKALDIPKA,
Nov. 15th, 1899.

Simultaneous Medical examination in England and India.

59. The *Utkaldipika* of the 25th November supports the application of the Indian Medical Society, requesting Government to take early steps for the introduction of simultaneous medical examination in England and India for admission into the higher grades of the Indian Medical Service.

UTKALDIPKA.

60. The same paper is informed that steps have already been taken for relief of distress in the Tributary States of Boad, Angul and Talcher, and hopes that loss of life may be averted thereby.

UTKALDIPKA.

61. The same paper is surprised to learn that the Government of Madras have issued instructions, prohibiting the Managers and teachers of aided schools from joining any political movement either directly or indirectly. The writer contends that the object of aid to Government schools is spread of education, and not interference with the independence of private gentlemen. The writer is unable to see what possible objection Government can have against political associations, whose only object is to make known grievances and pray for their redress. No good Government, based on a solid foundation, can take exception to this.

UTKALDIPKA.

62. The same paper brings the condition of the *Dhavaleswer* temple, situated in the Tributary State of Athgarh, close to the town of Cuttack, to the notice of the public, as also to the notice of the Superintendent of the Tributary States of Orissa. A *mela* is held once in a year in the compound of the temple, where a large number of men and women gather. The writer is surprised that the Raja of Athgarh posted only two constables to preserve peace in the last *mela*, in a place frequented by thousands of men and women. The sanitary arrangements were also very bad, shops being crowded together in order to prevent free egress and ingress. The writer hopes that steps should be taken to prevent such scenes in future.

UTKALDIPKA.

63. The same paper has information that the tract, forming the boundary of Hindole and Dhenkanal, is infested with tigers, and that one native, while in the act of digging out edible roots, was killed. The writer hopes that steps will be taken to remove the pest at once.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S
OFFICE,
The 9th December, 1899.